

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 8-9, 13-14, 17, 19-20, 23-24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 as being unpatentable over Schreiber et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,326,412 in view of Toda et al. U.S. patent No. 5,3667,165.

Schreiber et al. is directed to the construction of a corrosion resistant barrier for isolated circuitry, as opposed to anything remotely related to probing. The isolated circuit with raised interconnection features has a corrosion resistant gold coating is formed on a reusable stainless steel mandrel which is provided with indentations to define raised features. Conductive layers are electroplated on the mandrel in a pattern of the isolated circuit to be formed. A dielectric substrate is laminated on the conductive layers of the circuit and the circuit is removed from the mandrel.

It may be observed that the raised portions constructed using the mandrel as a support material are symmetrical in nature, as would be expected for forming connective elements used in printed circuits that are connected to one another using the raised portions. In addition, there is no motivation to modify the shape of the raised portions to anything other than a symmetrical shape.

Toda et al. disclose creating a substantially asymmetrical recess (36).

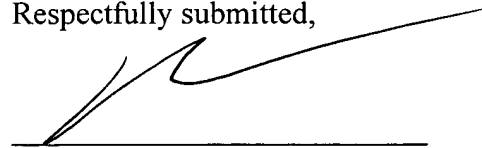
Claim 2 patentably distinguishes over Schreiber et al. in view of Toda et al. by claiming affixing the membrane supporting the conductive trace which is electrically connected to the conductive material to a support such that the conductive material comes into contact with



a device under test when probing. It is noted, that even if the suggested combination were made (although the applicant suggests that there is no motivation for the combination) it does not result in a probe for testing a device under test, as amended.

Claims 3–30 depend from claim 2, and are patentable for the same reasons asserted for claim 2.

Respectfully submitted,

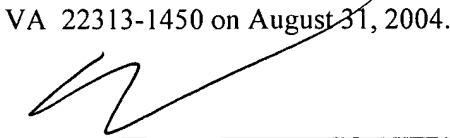


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 31, 2004.

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